



CT NOFA

Cultivating an Organic Connecticut

To: The Environment Committee

Re: Bill 5418 AN ACT CONCERNING INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

From: Bill Duesing, Executive Director, CT NOFA

Date: March 12, 2010

This testimony is presented on behalf of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut's nearly 800 members and its pioneering Organic Land Care Program that has educated close to 2,000 landscape professionals in organic methods in the past ten years. Since 1989, CT NOFA has been educating and advocating for organic landscaping based on the success we have seen in organic agriculture.

Connecticut is in the forefront of the Organic Land Care movement in the United States. The bills, that this committee supported and the legislature passed, which prohibit the application of pesticides to day care centers and schools serving children up through 8th grade are widely seen as leading the way to a safer future for our children, our grandchildren and the environment.

It is very important for this reason not to backslide by passing legislation that would permit these chemicals, which have never been tested for their safety on children, to be used in the environments where we require that most of our children to spend much of their time.

We strongly believe that the pesticide ban should remain in place for all day care centers and schools through grade 8 to protect our most vulnerable population. All parties should continue to look for ways to reduce pesticide use at high schools and on all municipal properties. The more we learn about the effects of pesticides on living things, especially their role in endocrine disruption the more bad news we get.